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Lucia A Keegan 10/03/2006 09:42:58 AM From DB/Inbox: Lucia A Keegan

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RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 1640  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 0653  
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RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 5634  
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DEPARTMENT FOR ISN/MNSA AND ISN/MTR, USUN (POL) AND GENEVA  
(CD)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/29/2016  
TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [UNGA](#) [CDG](#) [FR](#)  
SUBJECT: INITIAL FRENCH REACTION TO DEMARCHE ON 2007 UN  
PANEL OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS ON MISSILES IN ALL ITS ASPECTS

REF: STATE 162299

Classified By: Political Minister-Counselor Josiah Rosenblatt, Reason 1

.4 B/D

11. (C) On September 28, we delivered reftel demarche to MFA counselor for missile defense and disarmament issues David Bertolotti, who stated he would discuss our message with French panel member Francois Richier. As an aside, Bertolotti cautioned that Richier had just assumed a new position at the MFA as PDAS-equivalent for Strategic Affairs, and it was still unclear whether he or his successor would represent France at the next panel.

12. (C) Bertolotti, however, shared a few initial observations on our non-paper:

-- With reference to the status of the 2004 report, he noted that the WP.2/Rev.3 had not been approved or diffused as a UN document. The Iranians had requested the report, but it did

not have a formal status, i.e., it was not a public document and not formally approved by the UN.

-- Similarly, the UNIDIR report should not be viewed as the work of "an outside body." The report had been completed at the UN's request. To reinforce this point, Bertolotti noted that Christophe Carl had worked both at UNIDIR and on the 2004 panel.

13. (C) Bertolotti observed that the 2007 panel likely would start with a review or a recap of previous discussions for the benefit of new members. It therefore might be more useful, he added, to focus less on which report (UNIDIR or WP.2/Rev.3) might be used as the basis of discussion by the 2007 panel, and to look at the composition of the yet-to-be determined panel. A key objective will be to have a panel president who is committed to moving forward. Bertolotti also made the observation that since the 2004 panel, the UNSC had passed several resolutions (UNSC 1695 on North Korea and 1696 on Iran), which contained references to the proliferation of ballistic missiles. These resolutions should help to demonstrate that there has been an evolution on nonproliferation issues at the UNSC, he concluded.

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